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Les Débuts de la Révolution, dans les Départements du Cher et de l'Indre (1789-1791). Par MARCEL BRUNEAU, Agrégé d'Histoire et de Géographie, Docteur ès Lettres, Inspecteur d'Académie. (Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1902. Pp. 470.)

LOCAL histories of the Revolution are often particularly refreshing because they take one out of the atmosphere of the great assemblies at Paris and show exactly how each reform in the social or political constitution of France was effected and just how far promise became performance. M. Bruneau has rendered his work more than usually serviceable by crowding his pages with detailed statements of fact, explaining the form each general phase of the early Revolution took in Berry. He has drawn his material from local assembly records, administrative correspondence, official documents of all kinds. In short, this is the sort of work upon which the general historian of the Revolution may rely in studying the consequences of the reforms undertaken by the Constituent Assembly.

Berry was a province which had the happy experience of successful reform before the Revolution. It was one of the experimentations for the project of provincial assemblies devised by Turgot and later carried out by Necker. This experience undoubtedly had something to do with the fact that at the beginning it escaped the worst excesses like the war on the *châteaux*. M. Bruneau shows, however, that the royal government collapsed here as completely as in other parts of France. Unfortunately the new administrations that finally took its place did not have the resolution to enforce all the laws or to stamp out disorder. In many instances they did not act harmoniously, and proved much more expensive than the old administration.

The municipal officers were not displaced at first, as were those of Paris. The *comités permanents*, formed in imitation of the earliest improvised government of Paris, merely coöperated with the existing municipalities until the new local government law went into effect. It is curious to note that the name *permanent*, which some Parisians took to mean *non-renewable* instead of *continuously in session*, gave no similar offense in Berry. Consequently these committees were not, like the Paris committee, accused of manifesting an aristocratic tendency, and obliged to change their names and soon afterward to retire.

M. Bruneau's description of the method by which Berry was divided into the two departments of Cher and Indre shows how ill-founded is the common assertion that the work of subdividing France ignored the historical divisions of the country and was controlled largely by considerations of symmetry or of mere local topography. He disturbs another equally stubborn commonplace, which states that the sale of public lands created by the confiscation of church property increased the relative amount of small peasant properties. His results are, therefore, in substantial agreement with those of M. Lecarpentier for the district of Caudebec and M. Minzès for the Seine-et-Marne. The chief purchasers

were members of the *bourgeoisie*, although there were several nobles, especially from the *noblesse de robe*. There was also apparently much buying for speculative purposes, and even some buying by municipal officers, moved by a sense of duty to show that they did not fear a reaction which might enable the Church to recover its lands.

M. Bruneau gives interesting details about the monetary crisis, explaining how difficult it was even after the heavy issues of assignats to obtain enough of them to carry on the ordinary local business. The merchants had no other resource than to issue notes of their own, called *billets de confiance*, which answered the purpose for a time, although later they aggravated the general evil.

These examples may serve to indicate the many-sided illustrative value of the book, which carries the history of Berry down to the adoption of the constitution of 1791. It should be added that although a sympathetic student of the Revolution, M. Bruneau is not an apologist of disorder or of the petty tyrannies that were sometimes practised in the interest of the new liberties of the people.

HENRY E. BOURNE.

Financial History of the United States. By DAVIS RICH DEWEY, Ph.D., Professor of Economics and Statistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. [American Citizen Series.] (London and New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1903. Pp. xxxvii, 530.)

PROFESSOR DEWEY'S financial history of the United States is the first attempt to sum up the results of the investigations of American historians and economists in the evolution of the money, banks, taxation, and public debts of this country. Scholars were early attracted to this rich field. The resulting literature has been an important contribution to the science of finance, quite on a par with similar work in other countries. Our varied and striking experience with paper and bank currency has been exhaustively treated by such writers as Gouge, Phillips, Bronson, Sumner, McCulloch, Horace White, and Bullock; our equally instructive experience with different forms of taxation, by Wells, Bolles, and Taussig; the fiscal problems peculiar to our history and government, by Noyes, Scott, Bourne, H. C. Adams, and Kinley; and the polemical literature of recent years on the great money and tariff questions has filled our libraries with much valuable material.

The writer of a financial history of the country cannot complain of a paucity of material. The difficulty he meets is rather one of orderly consecutiveness of the story. Professor Dewey has been signally successful in meeting this difficulty. His book avoids needless repetition, and presents the kaleidoscopic items that go to make up the country's financial history with a proper regard to their relative importance and to the thread, often slender and obscure, that binds them together. In one particular, however, we must express our regret that the author's desire to keep his book within certain bounds has led him to omit all reference